

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in the application. However, claims 1-2 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. By this Amendment claim 3 is amended and new claims 4-8 are added. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for containing asserted informalities. Applicants believe that this rejection is overcome with the above amendments to claim 3. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are respectively requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,854,150). The Office Action also rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Siecinski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,206,392) in view of Brown et al. The Office Action also rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue JP 2000-233625. These rejections are traversed as they may apply to amended claim 3.

The presently claimed invention is directed to a hollow stabilizer formed by bending a material obtained by compressing an electroseamed pipe in a temperature range of a hot state or a warm state so as to make a ratio of thickness with respect to an outer diameter between 18 and 35%, whereby shot peening is applied to an outer surface portion.

According to the hollow stabilizer of the invention, since the shot peening is applied to the outer surface portion, the fatigue strength in the outer surface portion is improved, and since the thickness ratio is equal to or greater than 18%, the fatigue

strength of the inner surface portion is relatively improved with respect to the outer surface portion, and the fatigue failure is easily generated in the outer surface portion. Accordingly, it is possible to satisfactorily obtain an effect by applying the shot peening to the outer surface portion.

The above-mentioned advantages can be obtained by compressing an electroseamed pipe in a temperature range of a hot state or a warm state to obtain a large thickness ratio.

In contrast, Brown discloses a pipe-shaped product having thickness ratio of 24% (lines 33 to 38, column 8). However, Brown fails to teach that the pipe-shaped product is an electroseamed pipe and that the pipe-shaped product is compressed to reduce the diameter thereof.

Inoue teaches a hollow stabilizer having a thickness ratio of from 20 to 27%. However, Inoue applies a cold drawing process with an area reduction ratio of 30% or more to obtain a thickness ratio of from 20 to 27%. Inoue obtains strength for a stabilizer by the cold drawing process.

In contrast, strength for a stabilizer is obtained by heat treatment in the present invention.

Siecinski teaches a hollow stabilizer made from an electroseamed pipe having a thickness ratio of from 10 to 25% (lines 45 to 53, column 4). However, Siecinski fails to teach that the material of the hollow stabilizer is compressed to reduce the diameter in a temperature range of a hot state or a warm state.

Thus, none of the applied references teach or suggest a hollow stabilizer formed by bending a material obtained by compressing an electroseamed pipe to reduce a

diameter thereof in a temperature range of a hot state or a warm state so as to make a ratio of thickness between 18 and 35%, whereby a heat treatment is applied.

For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectively requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

Should this response not be considered timely filed, Applicants petition for any necessary extension of time. Please charge any fees for such a petition and/or charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108421-00036.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert K. Carpenter
Registration No. 34,794

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

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